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Gomyo, Chuichiro

Cosmopolitanism

[New York]

[c1921]

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Cosmopolitanism, remarks made by Mr. Chuichiro
Gomyo at the social party given by him at the
Nippon club, New York city, Saturday, April 2nd,
1921, in appreciation of hospitality extended to
him during his sojourn in America... [c1921]
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Cosmopolitanism

By
Chuichiro Gomyo

To
The Library
of
Columbia University
with
Compliments
of
The Author
August 1921.

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 弟新
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COSMOPOLITANISM

Remarks made by Mr. Chuichiro Gomyo at
 the social party given by him at the Nippon Club,
 New York City, Saturday, April 2nd, 1921, in ap-
 preciation of hospitality extended to him during his
 sojourn in America.

Chuichiro Gomyo

Copyright, 1921

by

CHUICHIRO GOMYO

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I keenly appreciate your kindness in honoring me with your presence this afternoon, and I should like very much, first of all, to tender to you my hearty gratitude for your friendship and generosity. This party is simply intended, as I have said before, to be an occasion affording us a chance to renew old friendships which were begun in the Cosmopolitan Club and elsewhere, and permitting us to make new acquaintances that would start today, ever to grow in intimacy in the future. As this is the object of this gathering, I earnestly hope that you will make yourselves quite at home here so that with the utmost freedom we may now sow the seeds of friendship and good-will in our hearts, there to grow under our mutual care and constant nurture, into genuine and lasting friendship. As some one once happily remarked, "There is no end to friendship."

In the lore of the Chinese classic we have the following:—

"High above the dark mountain I gaze
at the serene moon,
Down at my feet I behold my solitary
shadow,
And my heart weighs heavy with
yearning for home."

This was the way I felt at times as a student and traveler in foreign lands, many thousands of miles away from home, almost friendless and quite inarticulate. But thanks to my friends of the Cosmopolitan Club, who stretched out their welcoming hands to me, and thanks also to my professors at Columbia University, who have kindly guided me through the paths in the garden of learning, the unlucky plight was not to last long. Besides, it was also my good fortune to feel, in American homes, the warmth of home life, its unique culture and social accomplishments. Indeed, there were times when I even forgot that I was in a foreign land—so genuine was the hospitality of the people.

Owing to this fortunate intimacy, I began to appreciate, before long, the desire of this country for the realization of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, basing it on the broad principles of liberty, equality and humanity. When I trace the American ideals permeated all through the history of the people, I have the utmost confidence that, out of the melting pot, this country will create, in this broad land of infinite promise, a new civilization which will embrace the best qualities of all the peoples on this globe. My admiration for its idealism is unbounded.

Continued on page 5

THE INTERCOLLEGIATE COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

By Harry E. Edmonds

During the college year 1920-1921 there were studying in forty-three higher institutions of learning in New York City, 516 students from Europe and the Near East, 240 from China, 203 from Latin-America, 147 from Japan, 87 from the Philippines, and 266 from miscellaneous countries—a total of 1419 students from 65 countries.

The object of the Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club is to unite these students for mutual benefit, socially, intellectually and morally; to promote friendly relations between them and American students; and to bring to them, as guests from abroad, in contact with the best in American life.

This year there has been an active paid membership of 620 students from 65 countries and 41 colleges. They have held 21 Sunday Suppers with an average attendance of 300 and addressed by prominent persons on some timely subject of interest to such a cosmopolitan gathering; 50 Socials and Receptions with from 50 to 500 present; 7 National Nights, affording the opportunity of exhibiting the music, manners and costumes of the different nationalities—attended by 3350; 10 Excursions to different places of interest—up the Hudson, around Manhattan Island and to industrial and municipal institutions in or near the city—for 1200; 122 American Home Dinners, at which 1008 were entertained;

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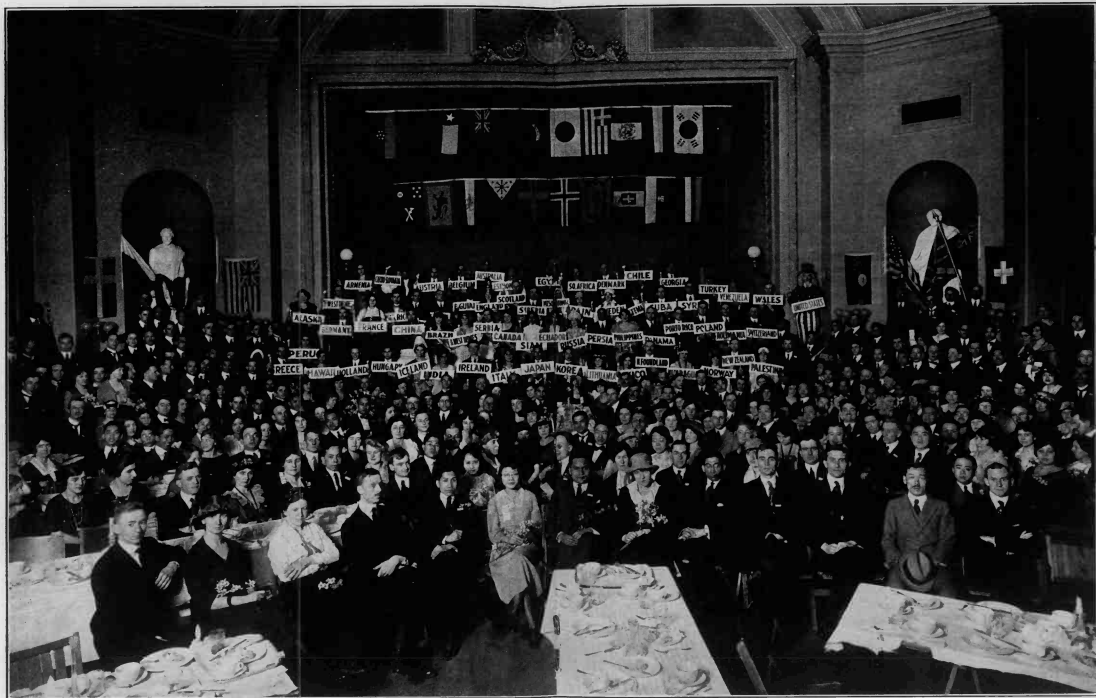
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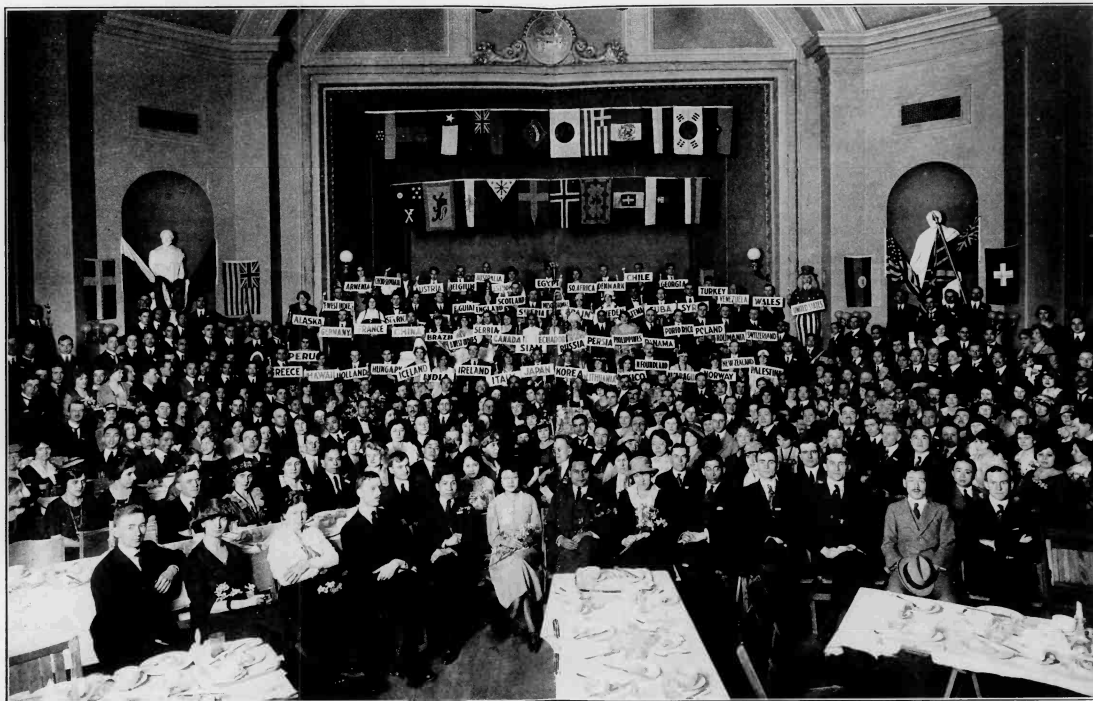
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The Candle Ceremony of the Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club, New York, April 24, 1921

The Candle Ceremony consisted of one member from each of the 65 countries represented in the Club, taking an unlighted candle and a placard on which was printed the name of his country and arranging himself in the line extending around the room. The member at the left of the line turned over his card, so that the name of his country appeared, saying as he did so, "I represent Alaska." Then, with his candle, he lighted the candle of his neighbor, the latter turning over his card, saying, "I represent Belgium." There was laughter and applause when Ireland announced itself. There was a sort of poignancy in some of the chance collocations. Japan lighted the candle of Korea, and

Korea was clapped. Russia got its light from Roumania and Turkey its from Syria. Each candle was lit from its neighbor, so that the light that began with Alaska spread up one side of the room, across the front and down the other side clear to Venezuela, until all the candles were lighted. Then Mr. Edmonds, the Chairman, said: "As light begets light so love, service and good will are passed on to others. We promise one another that the light of international friendship and good will kindled in these meetings shall never die out. We pledge ourselves to the extension of the 'League of Hearts' behind 'The League of Nations,' that justice, brotherhood and good will may prevail throughout the world."



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29 Discussion Groups, to afford an interchange of viewpoint on questions of national and international scope, attended by 996; 500 students attended simultaneous social meetings in 15 churches—a total of 254 meetings of a social, educational, recreational and religious character held under the auspices of the Club with an attendance of 17,000. The Club also found lodgings for 158, employment for 101, aided 48 in sickness, counselled 274 on personal problems, and the officers and members of committees met large numbers on arrival and aided them in numerous other ways. There were 203 members serving on committees, 66 students engaged in Social Service in behalf of their fellow nationals of non-collegiate type and 68 Deputations conducted to churches and schools attended by 30,000 persons.

The most remarkable characteristic of the Club is something that cannot be appraised in value or tabulated in figures. It is the fine spirit of neighborliness and comradeship prevailing this large group of students who are so heterogeneous in respect to national heritage, religious tradition, economic status, and social rank. One can observe that spirit on every occasion which brings them together. Such international companionship is worth more than tons of peace propaganda. As the Club's members return home and translate this spirit into the leadership of their respective countries, they will be a mighty force, as is suggested in the Candle Ceremony, in kindling the light that will enable justice, brotherhood, and good-will to prevail throughout the world.

Continued from page 4

I was born in the land of Shintoism, and educated in the school of Confucius in my early teens. Later, after two years' hard study in a Buddhist temple, I entered a Christian College in Tokio, where I remained for four years. After graduating from the Waseda University, where my special study was political science, I organized the "Association of Social Education" under the presidency of Marquis Okuma, and was actively engaged in the work for ten years. All these religious experiences, social pursuits and the later sociological studies at Columbia made me a believer in Cosmopolitanism.

Once given a birth of life, a man, under whatever conditions he may happen to be, has "certain inalienable rights" for the preservation of life itself. To assert life's existence, regardless of petty differences, either of race or birth, is the fundamental aim of mankind. To attain life's guarantees—political and economical, religious and racial—in the individual, national and international associations, is the supreme ideal of mankind.

Thinkers may differ as to the interpretation of life, but they would all agree as to its ideal. Perhaps I can best illustrate what I mean by a bit of old Japanese literature:

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"Several are the path-ways from the
foot of the mountain,
To the summit, where all meet and en-
joy the crystal moon together."

We seek a common summit at the ends of our
several pathways; we seek the ideal of humanity
where there is the light of eternity.

For the last seven years we have witnessed,
with heavy hearts, the World War and the depres-
sion that followed. If there ever was any cause
which set the "world in ferment" and which re-
tarded the universal peace and the speedy recon-
struction, it was an undue emphasis on the mere
difference in the pathways at the foot of the moun-
tain and an utter disregard of the supreme ideal
and the true unity at the summit.

In quest of the solution of this great problem
of human life, we have now come to start on a new
journey with fresh vigor of moral strength. In
order to attain the guarantee of "Life, Liberty and
the pursuit of Happiness" in our organic society,
we have to return once more to the conception of
the oneness of humanity and brotherhood of man.
The affairs of man versus man should be solved
with the successful culmination through the reali-
zation of "International Mind", to use the happy

phrase coined by President Butler of the Univer-
sity.

Once, dealing with the question of races, in its
bearing on the peace of the world in the future,
Lord Bryce, former British Ambassador to the
United States, truly remarked:

"People are afraid of a conflict of races; people
think that some of the greatest ancient races of
the East may be led into mortal struggle with the
European peoples. If our attitude to them were
governed by Christian principles, there would be
no risk of any such conflict. I hope and I believe
that it will be averted if we try to apply in our
national policy those Christian principles which we
profess. The sense of human brotherhood was
never more needed than now, at this precious, this
critical moment."

As the Scripture puts it, "And abideth faith,
hope and charity, these three; but the greatest
of these is charity." Charity or human brother-
hood or love in Cosmopolitanism, as we find it, in
our Club, representing as many as sixty-five na-
tionalities, is the eternal beacon that lights the
summit of human idealism. Indeed, in this gath-
ering of Cosmopolitanism, "there is neither East
nor West, border, nor breed, nor birth," when the
men and women of all the world "stand face to
face, though they come from the end of the earth."

In the never-ending progress of humanity, it was the people of the United States that became the pioneers in the evolution of democracy. In this progress it will be the duty of the people of Japan, the pioneers in harmonizing the civilization of the East and that of the West, to realize this conception of human idealism. The efforts of the former will be the warp of the new civilization, while those of the latter will be its woof. And the brilliancy of this brocade of the new creation in our generation will be the legitimate pride of both peoples in the annals of the history of mankind.

Centuries ago, said a Chinese sage: "Truth is the way of Heaven and to realize it is the way of man." We have to do our supreme effort for the realization of the "Truth."

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the broadening of my thought during my stay in your midst, and the light with which you have often guided me.

I feel exceedingly happy to avail myself of this opportunity before I sail away, to express to you my indebtedness and gratitude. May you all enjoy long, happy and prosperous lives. May we also hope for a joyous meeting in the future.



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